



Sixth Meeting
2011 Interim
October 24, 2011

Room 414
State Capitol Building
Pierre, South Dakota

Monday, October 24, 2011

The sixth and final meeting of the Legislative Redistricting Committee was called to order by Representative Val Rausch, at 8:32 a.m. (CDT) in Room 414 of the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering the roll call: Representatives Jim Bolin, Mitch Fargen, Brian Gosch, Kent Juhnke, Mark Kirkeby, David Lust, Val Rausch, and Susan Wismer; and Senators Jim Bradford, Corey Brown, Joni Cutler, Russell Olson, Deb Peters, Larry Rhoden, and Todd Schlekeway.

Staff members present included Jim Fry, Director; Dave Ortbahn, Principal Research Analyst; Reuben Bezpaletz, Chief Analyst of Research and Legal Services; Terry Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst; and Lisa Shafer, Legislative Secretary.

(NOTE: For purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. Also, all referenced documents distributed at the meeting are attached to the original minutes on file in the Legislative Research Council (LRC). This meeting was web cast live. The archived web cast is available at the LRC web site at <http://legis.state.sd.us> under "Interim Information – Current Interim – Minutes and Agendas.")

Approval of Minutes

SENATOR RHODEN MOVED, SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE GOSCH, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 BE APPROVED. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Remarks from the Chair

Representative Val Rausch informed the committee and public that testimony will be received on both the adopted legislative redistricting map and the proposed amendments. He said that the committee will not be acting on any amendment.

Public Testimony

Senator Frank Kloucek stated his concern that the current legislative redistricting map divides Bon Homme County into two legislative districts. He distributed to the committee six documents:

- A proposed change to make Bon Homme County entirely in District 19 (**Document #1**);
- A Resolution of Support for keeping Bon Homme County in one legislative district (**Document #2**);

- A letter from Ms. Jill Grogen, Avon City Council (**Document #3**);
- A letter from Mr. Luverne Schieffer, Mayor of Tabor (**Document #4**);
- A letter from Mr. David Vavruska , Mayor of Tyndall (**Document #5**); and
- A letter from Mr. Ron Orth, Mayor of Scotland (**Document #6**).

Representative Edward Van Gerpen stated his concern for splitting Bon Homme County into two legislative districts. He distributed amendment 1001ba and explained how the amendment would allow for entire county of Bon Homme to remain in one district. (**Document #7**)

Ms. Tamara Brunken, Auditor of Bon Homme County, distributed a copy of her testimony that opposes the current adopted legislative redistricting map and encourages the Legislature to keep Bon Homme in one legislative district. (**Document #8**) Two of her reasons include that Bon Homme County would fare better with the counties to the north or east because they have more comparable ag processes and that the split would increase the cost of elections in the county because there will be 5-6 different ballot styles compared to the current 2-3.

Ms. Jill Grogen, City of Avon City Council and Avon Chamber of Commerce, distributed a signed "Petition of Support for keeping Bon Homme County United for Legislative Redistricting purposes" (**Document #9**). She encouraged the legislature to keep Bon Homme County in one legislative district.

Mr. Steve Green, Springfield, SD; stated his support for keep Bon Homme County in one legislative district.

Mr. Bill Van Gerpen, Tyndall, SD; spoke against the proposed legislative redistricting plan as it currently exists. He encouraged the Legislature to reconsider dividing Bon Homme County into two legislative districts.

Senator J.E. "Jim" Putnam said that the Legislature should reconsider some of the decisions made by the committee by amending the bill to keep as many counties whole as possible. He noted that he will be offering an amendment on the floor of the Senate.

Representative Kent Juhnke distributed amendment 1001bc. (**Document #10**) He said that the amendment makes Bon Homme County whole by connecting the county with Gregory and Tripp Counties.

Mr. Tom Katus, Rapid City, SD; distributed a map for the Rapid City conurbation area. He believes this map is contiguous and is a fairer representation for all Rapid City citizens.

Mr. Curt Pochardt, Rapid City, SD; stated his support for Mr. Katus's map of the Rapid City conurbation area. He wants to have the northern part of Rapid City in one legislative district.

Mr. Burt Elliott, Brown County Commission, said that Brown County Commission passed a Resolution of Concern that Brown County will be divided into three legislative districts. One of the Brown County Commission's concerns is that a third legislative district in the county will cost at least \$10,000. He showed the committee amendment 1001oe (**Document #12**). He said that the amendment would make Brown County whole in the rural area, leave the city of

Aberdeen in a separate district, leave McPherson County whole, and would not infringe on any more of Spink County than is already proposed.

Senator Al Novstrup showed the committee amendment 1001fc (**Document #13**). The amendment straightens the district lines and keeps the city of Claremont in District 1 with Britton and Webster.

Ms. Julie Johnson, Absolutely Aberdeen, stated her support for amendment 1001fc. The amendment would put the city of Aberdeen in two legislative districts and realigns precinct 15 with Aberdeen that has enormous economic synergy with Aberdeen.

Representative H. Paul Dennert urged the committee and legislature to keep Aberdeen and Brown County in two legislative districts.

Representative Burt Tulson stated his support for the current redistricting map without any amendments.

Mr. Bill Thompson said that in spite of all the improvements during the redistricting process, the redistricting map was drawn with the same results to eliminate Democratic incumbents. He believes that the redistricting process should be to provide what is best for the citizens of the state.

Senator Jim Hundstad told the committee that the current map does not have compact districts and the elected legislators will not have relationships with the citizens of the districts.

Ms. Ann Thompson, League of Women Voters, provided areas of improvement for the next redistricting committee process – increased publicity, create timeline, develop parameters, more time for public testimony of final map, maintain competitive districts, and respect county lines.

Senator Mike Vehle thanked the committee for the hard work and dedication in creating the legislative redistricting map.

Adjourn

SENATOR PETERS MOVED, SECONDED BY SENATOR BROWN, TO ADJOURN. The motion prevailed unanimously on a voice vote.

The committee adjourned at 9:34 a.m.



All Legislative Research Council committee minutes and agendas are available at the South Dakota Legislature's Homepage: <http://legis.state.sd.us>. Subscribe to receive electronic notification of meeting schedules and the availability of agendas and minutes at **MyLRC** (<http://legis.state.sd.us/mylrc/index.aspx>).